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Former C.I.A. Analyst Is Arrested And Accused of Spying for China

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23 — A retired analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency was arrested today and accused of spying for China for more than 30 years.

Federal law-enforcement officials said the analyst, Larry Wu-Tai Chin, continued providing classified C.I.A. documents to China after he retired in 1981, after nearly 30 years with the agency.

Mr. Chin, 63 years old, is one of a only a handful of C.I.A. officials ever arrested on espionage charges.

His arrest appeared to be another in a series of recent embarrassments to the agency, including the decision of a senior Soviet intelligence officer to return to Moscow after defecting to the West last summer. At least nine current and former Government employees have been charged with espionage in the last year.

An F.B.I. criminal complaint made public this afternoon said Mr. Chin had spied for the Chinese since 1952. In that year, the complaint said, he provided the Chinese intelligence service with the "location of Chinese prisoners of war in Korea and the information that the American and Korean intelligence services were seeking from the Chinese P.O.W.'s" in the Korean War.

It said that Mr. Chin was paid more than \$140,000 in the last 30 years and that the investigation of him began in December 1983.

'Concerned and Shocked'

Responding to Mr. Chin's arrest, the State Department said it was "concerned and shocked by the notion that something like this could occur." The department said it had made a formal protest to the Chinese Government.

A spokesman for the Chinese Embassy here, Kegang Wang, denied that Chinese officials had any involvement with Mr. Chin. He said Chinese diplomats were planning to meet with State Department officials later today.

A law-enforcement official said Mr. Chin, a resident of Alexandria, Va., "may have been doing this way before Walker," a reference to John A. Walker Jr., a Navy warrant officer who confessed last month that he had provided military secrets to the Soviet Union for nearly 20 years.

The law-enforcement official said, "It's gone on for a long, long time — decades."

Mr. Chin, the official said, "received a substantial amount of money" from the Chinese.

Mr. Chin's arrest came two days

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Special to The New York Times

after a Navy counterintelligence analyst, Jonathan Jay Pollard, was taken into custody in Washington and accused of spying for Israel. Mr. Pollard's wife, Anne L. Henderson-Pollard, was arrested on Friday night after the Federal Bureau of Investigation found secret Navy documents in her purse, a bureau official said.

Law-enforcement officials said there was no connection between Mr. Chin and the Pollards.

According to the affidavit, Mr. Chin had worked for several years as an analyst for the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, an arm of the C.I.A. that monitors and analyzes foreign news broadcasts and publications. At its central office in Rosslyn, Va., the service sifts thousands of pieces of information each day for news and nuance.

It was unclear what type of information Mr. Chin might have provided to the Chinese, but an intelligence official said Mr. Chin had a security clearance providing him with access to classified documents. The intelligence official said it was unlikely the information analyzed at the Broadcast Information Service would have been of significant value to Chinese agents, who presumably have access to similar material gathered in Peking.

Once Worked for Army

The affidavit, signed by Special Agent Mark J. Johnson, said Mr. Chin was a civilian employee of the Army in World War II when he met a Dr. Wang, a Communist who "indoctrinated him."

In 1948, Mr. Chin worked in the American consulate in Shanghai as an interpreter and two years later took a job as a secretary-interpreter at the American Embassy in Hong Kong, the affidavit said.

In the Korean War, he interviewed Chinese prisoners of war in Korea, the affidavit said, and was paid by the Chinese for information on the prisoners. In 1952, he took a post at the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, first in Okinawa, later in Santa Rosa, Calif.

According to the complaint, he met periodically with members of Chinese intelligence, sometimes in Hong Kong and was at one point given an address in Canton, China, as a "contact point."

From 1970 until 1981, the document said, he was an intelligence officer handling "foreign documents" at the information service's headquarters in northern Virginia. "During this period, Chin had access to various levels of classified information."

Contact With Agents Described

The four-page affidavit described in detail the procedures that Mr. Chin supposedly used to contact Chinese intelligence agents. It said that since about 1976 until today, he dealt with a Mr. Ou, who told him to deliver information to a courier in Toronto. Mr. Chin, it added, took the documents home "either in a briefcase or a coat jacket," photographed them and returned them.

From 1976 until 1982, Mr. Chin made four trips to Toronto to meet the courier, identified as Mr. Lee, the document said. The complaint noted that Mr. Chin spoke Cantonese to Mr. Lee. Mr. Chin, it said, delivered undeveloped film to Mr. Lee.

The affidavit did not disclose how the information about Mr. Chin was learned. He retired in 1981 but continued his participation in espionage, the document said.

In February 1982, it said, Mr. Chin traveled to Peking, where he was paid \$50,000 in American currency. In 1983, he met with Chinese intelligence agents in Hong Kong and identified a Information Service employee as being susceptible to recruitment by Chinese intelligence, according to the affidavit.

May Have Been Turned In

There were indications that Mr. Chin was turned in to the F.B.I. by a family member. "He is married, and his wife has not been real happy with him," a law-enforcement officer said. He would not elaborate.

A woman answering the family's phone in suburban Washington refused to identify herself. She said that Mrs. Chin and the couple's three children were not at home.

An F.B.I. official who spoke on condition he not be identified said that Mr. Chin was arrested early this morning after several hours of questioning by law-enforcement agents.

In a written statement, the F.B.I. said that Mr. Chin, a native of China who became an American citizen, was arrested after an "extensive investigation" with the assistance of the C.I.A. The statement said that he was a "recruited intelligence agent" for China.

In an appearance before a United States Magistrate at the Federal District Court in Alexandria, Mr. Chin was formally charged with espionage and conspiracy, which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison. Conspiracy charges require at least two people to have acted together, but law-enforcement officials said today that they knew of no imminent arrests in the case.

American protests to the Chinese Government were "made known at an appropriate level," said Daniel Lawler, a State Department spokesman.

The department issued a similar statement after the arrest of Mr. Pollard, a 31-year-old analyst with the Navy's special counterterrorism unit in Suitland, Md. Federal law-enforcement officials say that he has acknowledged passing confidential military documents to the Israeli Government.

Mr. Pollard was arrested by the F.B.I. on Thursday, minutes after he and his wife drove into the Israeli Embassy compound in Washington. The Israeli Government has denied any involvement with the couple.

Mrs. Henderson-Pollard was arrested Friday night outside the Washington jail where her husband was being held.